

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US 01/07930

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61B17/70

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FR 2 763 828 A (AESCALAP JBS) 4 December 1998 (1998-12-04) page 11, line 1 -page 12, line 20; figures 7,8 ---	1,6-8,13
P, X <i>from application</i>	WO 00 62692 A (SDGI HOLDINGS INC ;BARKER B THOMAS (US); BEALE JEFFREY W (US); JOH 26 October 2000 (2000-10-26) the whole document ---	1-13
A	US 5 129 899 A (BRUMFIELD DAVID L ET AL) 14 July 1992 (1992-07-14) column 3, line 39 -column 4, line 9; figures 1,1A-1C ---	1,6-8,13
A	US 5 234 431 A (KELLER ARNOLD) 10 August 1993 (1993-08-10) column 3, line 4 - line 24; figures 5,6 ---	1,6,7,13
	-/-	

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

28 June 2001

05/07/2001

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 984 924 A (ASHER MARC A ET AL) 16 November 1999 (1999-11-16) claim 1; figures 4,5 ---	1
A	US 5 395 371 A (BARRETT JOHN P ET AL) 7 March 1995 (1995-03-07) column 5, line 24 -column 7, line 68; figures 4-9 ---	1
A	US 5 735 853 A (OLERUD SVEN) 7 April 1998 (1998-04-07) abstract; figure 3 ---	1
A	US 5 616 142 A (YUAN HANSEN A ET AL) 1 April 1997 (1997-04-01) column 3, line 63 -column 4, line 3; figure 1 -----	1